processing industries in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the role these cooperative have played in the promotion of food processing sector in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 80.75 lakhs, Rs. 109.49 lakhs and Rs. 160.78 lakhs was extended to the cooperatives in Maharashtra under the Plan Schemes of this Ministry covering Fruit and Vegetables Processing, Meat & Poultry Processing and Fisheries Sectors during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively.

(c) The activities undertaken by these cooperatives for the promotion of food processing in Maharashtra *inter alia* include setting up of post harvest handling facilities, establishment of an integrated project for poultry production and processing and creation of infrastructural facilities for preservation and processing of fish.

Government organization carrying Pepsi advertisements

504. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minster of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government organisation—including police stations in Delhi—are carrying Pepsi advertisements;

(b) if so, who permitted display of these advertisements; and

(c) what are the terms and conditions of this"arrangements"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Autonomy to select PSUs

505. DR. B.B. DUTTA:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give more autonomy to selected nine navratna public sector enterprises?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for selecting the navratna;

(d) whether the boards of navratnas will also be restructured to induct eminent non-official part time directors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government have granted greater autonomy and operational freedom to nine selected public sector enterprises. The criteria for selecting the enterprises included factors like size, performance, nature of activity, future prospects etc.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, for the selection of non-official part-time Directors, a Search Committee has been set up.

Slump in Industrial growth

506. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minster of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industrial growth during 1996-97 slumped to just around 7% as against 12% during the